Assistance to Tamil Nadu for revival of handicrafts sector

3089. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to extend any assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu for the revival of languishing handicrafts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, handicraft-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The schemes being implemented for development and promotion of handicrafts are being implemented throughout the country as grant-in-aid schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporations/apex bodies and NGOs etc. based on the merit of proposals and availability of funds. Assistance for revival of languishing crafts in Tamil Nadu could be considered on the basis of proposals received from eligible implementing agencies as per norms.

(c) Does not arise.

Role of Handloom and khadi clothes after lifting of sanctions

†3090. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantitative sanctions imposed on the textile and readymade garments among member countries of the WTO, have been lifted; and

(b) if so, the role of handloom and khadi clothes in this scenario?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), the textile quota regime has come to an end and the textile sector fully integrated into WTO on 1st January, 2005.

(b) Most of handlooms, folklore and khadi products were already exempted from the quota restrictions. However, in general, the free global

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.